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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/039,905	01/04/2002	Blake L. Reynolds	8614.61	8720

21999 7590 03/14/2003

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EXAMINER
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AKERS, GEOFFREY R

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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3624

DATE MAILED: 03/14/2003

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

# Office Action Summary

Application

10/039905

Applicant(s)

*Roger L. Johnson*

Examiner

*Alex G*

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Confirmation No.

- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet beneath the correspondence address -

## Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, such period shall, by default, expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

## Status

- Responsive to communication(s) filed on 11/8/02
- This action is FINAL.  This action is non-final.
- Since this application is in condition for allowance except for the formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11; 453 O.G. 213.

## Disposition of Claims

- Claim(s) 1-23 is/are pending in this application.
- Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- Claim(s) 1-23 is/are rejected.
- Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction or election requirement.

## Application Papers

- The proposed drawing correction, filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is  approved or  disapproved by the Examiner. If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are  accepted or  objected to by the Examiner. Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

## Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119 (a)-(d) or (f).

All  Some\*  None of the:

- Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
- Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
- Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\*Certified copies not received:

- Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).  The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.

- Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

## Attachment(s)

- Information Disclosure Statement(s), PTO-1449, Paper No(s) 24  
 Notice of References Cited, PTO-892  
 Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review, PTO-948

- Interview Summary, PTO-413  
 Notice of Informal Patent Application, PTO-152  
 Other 5

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## DETAILED ACTION

1. Claims 1-23 have been examined.

### *Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103*

2. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

3. Claims 1-23 are rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as unpatentable over Brown(US Pat. No: 6,151,586) in view of Chusid(US Pat. No: 5,870,720).

4. As per claim 1-23 Brown teaches a reward system for encouraging participation(Abstract) in a customized program(col 2 line 61-col 3 line 11) as well as an education .Brown further discloses determining eligibility and rewarding accordingly(Fig 15B) as well as receiving credit for a good/service(Fig 15B/430) and allocating the reward(Fig 18) as well as a service provider(col 3 lines 18-60). Chusid teaches a method of restructuring debt(Abstract) as well as collection(Fig 2/210) as well as a face amount of the debt(Fig 2/202).It would have been obvious to one skilled in the art at the time of the invention to combine Brown in view of Chusid to teach the invention. The motivation to combine is to teach an effective debt restructuring program by reducing a purchaser's share of a mortgage (col 4 lines 51-52) as enunciated by Chusid and as applied to incentive systems for successful participation in such loan reduction activities.

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***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 101***

5. 35 U.S.C. 101 reads as follows:

Whoever invents or discovers any new and useful process, machine, manufacture, or composition of matter, or any new and useful improvement thereof, may obtain a patent therefor, subject to the conditions and requirements of this title.

6. Claims 21-23 are rejected under 35 USC 101 as they lack defining a concrete, useful and tangible result in terms of a specified output.

***Conclusion***

7. **THIS ACTION IS MADE NON-FINAL.**

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8. Any questions concerning this communication should be addressed to the primary examiner of record, Dr. Geoffrey Akers, P.E., who can be reached between 6:30 AM and 5:00 PM Monday through Friday at 703-306-5844. If attempts to contact the primary examiner are unsuccessful, the primary examiner's superior, Mr. Vincent Millin, SPE, may be telephoned at (703)-308-1065.

GRA  
PRIMARY

March 6, 2003